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Health Canada
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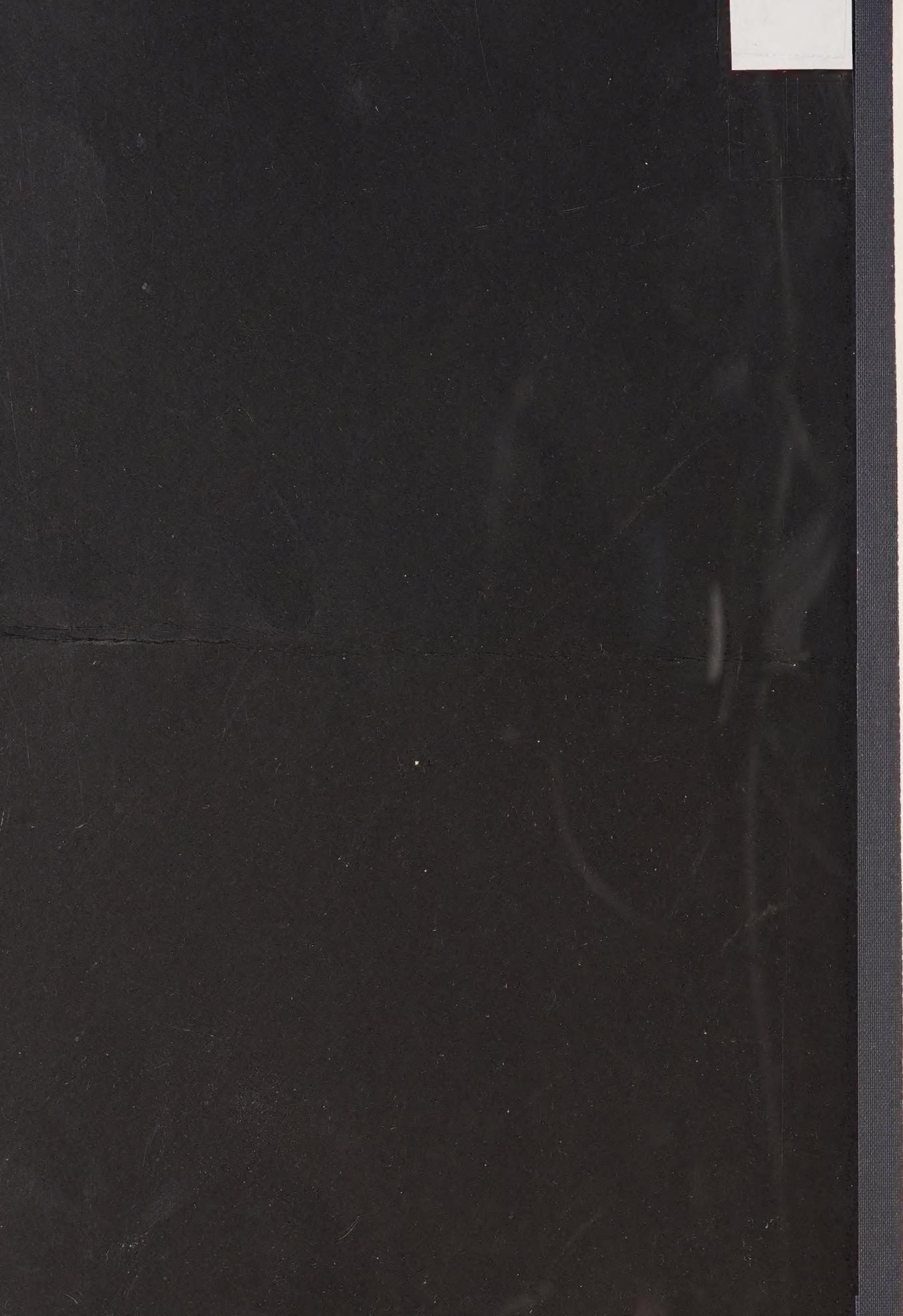
YOUR
HEALTH.

HEALTH CANADA TOUCHING THE LIVES OF ALL CANADIANS



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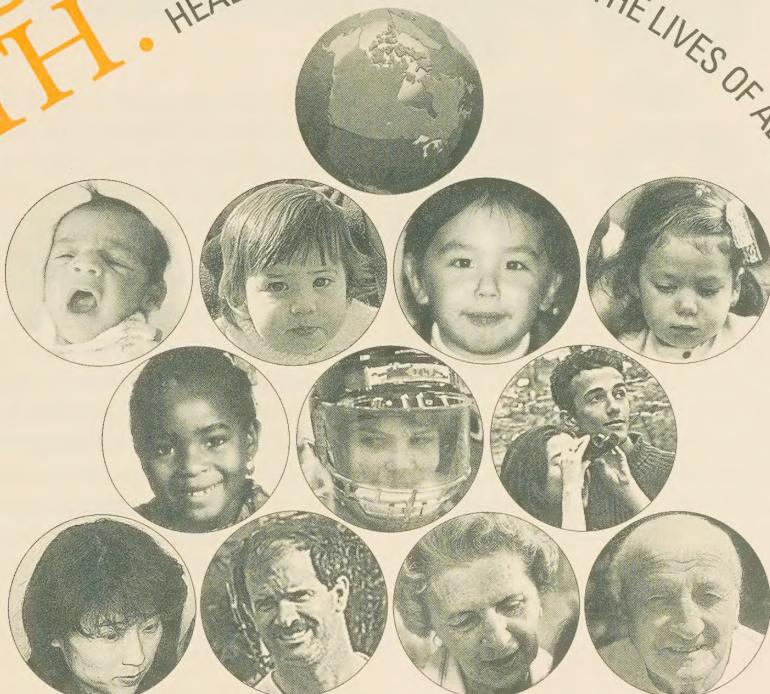
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Canada



Health Canada is the federal department responsible for helping the people of Canada maintain and improve their health. In partnership with provincial and territorial governments, Health Canada provides national leadership to develop health policy, enforce health regulations, promote disease prevention and enhance healthy living for all Canadians. Health Canada ensures that health services are available and accessible to First Nations and Inuit communities. It also works closely with other federal departments, agencies and health stakeholders to reduce health and safety risks to Canadians.

Through its administration of the *Canada Health Act*, Health Canada is committed to maintaining this country's world-renowned health insurance system which is universally available to permanent residents, comprehensive in the services it covers, accessible without income barriers, portable within the country and publicly funded. Each province and territory administers its own health care plan with respect for these five basic principles of the *Canada Health Act*.

Many factors including family history, social or financial status, physical environment and personal lifestyle choices influence individual health. By making Canadians more aware of dangers to their health, protecting them from avoidable risks and encouraging them to take a more active role in their health, the Department fosters a healthier population and contributes to a more productive country.





Preserving and Modernizing Canada's Health Care System

By managing health risks and promoting healthy lifestyles, the Department helps reduce the incidence of illness and injury and the cost of treatment.

Canadians rely on the federal government, in partnership with provinces and territories, to maintain a high-quality, affordable health care system. Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the delivery of Canada's health care and hospital services. The federal government shares in the cost of these

services through annual Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) allocations. As well, the federal government works collaboratively with the provinces and territories to test ways in which the Canadian health care system can be improved and ensure its sustainability for the future.



Enhancing the Health of Canadians

Health Canada recognizes that health depends on more than a good health care system.

Factors such as income, education, social support networks, the environment, and employment and working conditions determine health and well-being. The Department focuses on this wide range of personal and collective circumstances when developing strategies to promote health and prevent disease.

Such a comprehensive population health approach emphasizes positive health activities and illness prevention measures. The results are long-term benefits for Canadians and reduced pressures on the health care system. Health Canada works with provincial

and territorial governments and other interested partners to expand knowledge of factors affecting the health of the general population and specific at-risk groups such as children, seniors, women and First Nations peoples.





Safeguarding the Health of Canadians

Health Canada collaborates internationally and with its provincial and territorial counterparts to protect the health of Canadians against current and emerging health threats.



Through its Health Intelligence Network, the Department works with other levels of government and the health care system in the surveillance, prevention, control and research of disease outbreaks across Canada and around the world. It also monitors health and safety risks related to the sale and use of drugs, food, chemicals,

pesticides, medical devices and certain consumer products. In addition, Health Canada negotiates agreements regarding hazardous materials in the workplace, performs medical assessments for pilots and air traffic controllers and conducts environmental health assessments.

Working with First Nations and the Inuit

Health Canada assists First Nations and Inuit peoples to attain a level of health comparable to that of other Canadians living in similar locations.



Through partnerships and extensive consultations with First Nations and Inuit peoples, the Department is working toward having Canada's Aboriginal peoples administer their own health programs and resources.

Many First Nations and Inuit communities interested in assuming control over their own health services have negotiated transfer agreements with the Department. These agreements encompass community-based services such as communicable disease control, public health and primary nursing care, addictions counselling and treatment, health education, nutrition, environmental health, and dental advice and assistance.



Health Canada also provides certain health-related goods and services to the Status Indian and Inuit populations and to the Innu of Labrador when the goods and services are not provided by other provincial or territorial agencies or third-party plans. These Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) include health care services such as drugs, medical supplies and equipment, dental care, vision care and medical insurance premiums.



Health Canada at Your Service



The Minister of Health is responsible to Parliament for administering some 20 health-related laws and associated regulations that govern the overall programs and policies of the Department. The Minister's portfolio also includes the Medical Research Council, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board, Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency.

The Deputy Minister and Associate Deputy Minister of Health support the Minister and manage departmental operations. Five Assistant Deputy Ministers located in Ottawa manage the Department's program and administrative branches. Four Regional Directors General represent departmental interests across the country through regional offices.

Health Protection Branch

Health Protection Branch (HPB) assesses the safety, effectiveness and quality of drugs and medical devices. It protects Canadians from potential health hazards associated with tobacco, cosmetics, food, radiation-emitting devices, certain consumer products and working and living environments. The Branch also develops and enforces regulations under consumer and environmental protection laws such as the *Food and Drugs Act*, the *Tobacco Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*.



Risk management activities include recalling hazardous products from the market, refusing or seizing imported goods and alerting the public to unsafe consumer products. In collaboration with a national network of health professionals from hospitals, research agencies and public health laboratories, the Branch carries out surveillance and risk assessment activities to prevent and control diseases of national and international concern.

District offices and regional laboratories across Canada monitor local health and safety issues and respond to consumer enquiries concerning hazardous products.





Medical Services Branch

The largest program of the Medical Services Branch (MSB) is First Nations and Inuit Health. This program provides community health services to Status Indians living on-reserve and to the Inuit. It also supports treatment and public health services to First Nations communities located in remote areas and public health services in non-isolated First Nations communities. The program also operates a scholarship and bursary program designed to increase the number of Aboriginal people pursuing careers in the health field.

The Non-Insured Health Benefits program provides a range of health-related goods and services to eligible beneficiaries who are registered Indians, recognized Inuit or Labrador Innu.

Occupational and Environmental Health Services is a special agency that offers health and safety services to employees of federal government departments, agencies and other levels of government, monitors food and drinking water aboard common carriers such as trains and airplanes and in national parks, and inspects international ships in Canadian ports for rats. It also assesses the fitness of aviation personnel prior to licensing and coordinates the health care requirements of foreign VIPs on official visits to Canada.

Emergency Services supports health and social services during national disasters such as floods, tornadoes and air crashes.

Health Promotion and Programs Branch

Health Promotion and Programs Branch (HPPB) plays a national role in enhancing the physical and mental health and well-being of Canadians. By focusing on factors that influence health during childhood, adolescence, mid-life and later life, HPPB works toward improving the health of these population groups.

Branch activities include research, policy and program development, support for community-based initiatives, public and professional education, as well as collaboration between governments and agencies and information exchanges on larger issues affecting population health. This work complements health promotion efforts undertaken by other levels of government and by non-governmental organizations.





Policy and Consultation Branch

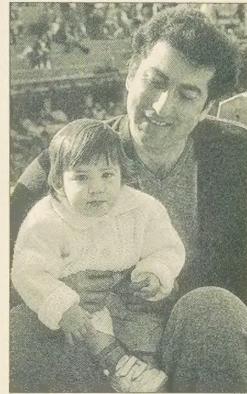
Policy and Consultation Branch (PCB) studies the health needs of Canadians and supports the development and delivery of health policies and programs. It undertakes strategic planning, policy analysis and research, public information activities and is the Departmental focal point for federal/provincial/territorial relations. In addition, the Branch manages Canada's relationship with the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization and other international bodies with health interests. Health Canada has a number of agreements with other countries which allow for the exchange of information and scientists. The Department supports Canadian health exporters to expand their markets abroad. The Branch develops policy for issues such as women's health and the renewal of the health care system.

PCB administers the *Canada Health Act*, the basis of the national health insurance system. The Branch also advises provincial and territorial governments on matters related to insured health care services and certain extended health care services.

PCB is also responsible for the Canadian Health Information System. This system is being developed in collaboration with the provinces, territories and other stakeholders to ensure that accurate, up-to-date information is available to decision-makers in the health field.

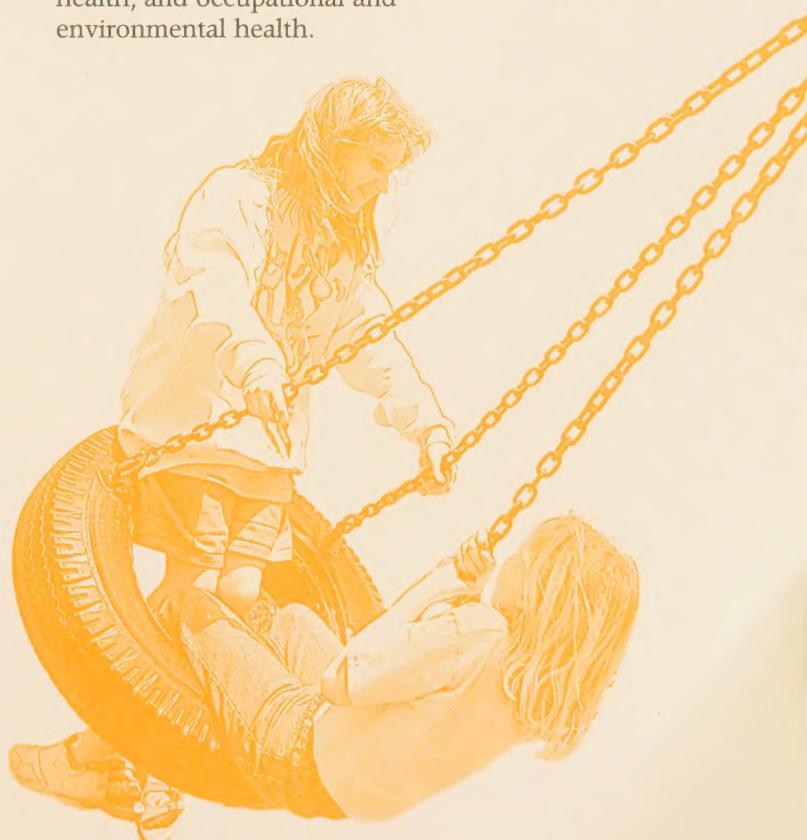
Corporate Services Branch

Corporate Services Branch (CSB) supports the daily activities of Health Canada employees through such services as human resources, information systems, financial planning, audit and accommodation. CSB also collaborates on behalf of Health Canada with other government departments including the Auditor General, the Commissioner of Official Languages, Treasury Board and the Public Service Commission.



Service in the Regions

Health Canada offices across the country serve regional and local clients and liaise with provincial and territorial counterparts. Regional employees offer programs, services and information related to health promotion, health protection, First Nations and Inuit health, and occupational and environmental health.





How can we help you?

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(613) 941-5366

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(613) 957-2991

Other offices of Health Canada
are listed under *Government
of Canada* in local telephone
directories.

E-mail us Health Canada's Web site
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>

Our mission is to help the people of Canada
maintain and improve their health.

Health Canada

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the Minister of Health

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